
U.S. Department of the Interior • U.S. Geological Survey

MINERAL INDUSTRY SURVEYS

Gordon P. Eaton, Director

Reston, VA 20192

For information, contact:

William S. Kirk, Commodity Specialist

Telephone: (703) 648-4962, Fax: (703) 648-7757

E-mail: wkirk@usgs.gov

David Mann (Data), (703) 648-7978

MINES-DATA: (703) 648-7799

MINES FaxBack: (703) 648-4999

Internet: <http://minerals.er.usgs.gov/minerals>

IRON ORE IN SEPTEMBER 1996

U.S. mine production of iron ore in September was 4.4% lower than that of August, according to the U.S. Geological Survey. Shipments increased by 1.8% and mine stocks decreased by 10.4%. Consumption and trade data for September will be included in a subsequent report.

Iron Ore Conferences

There were two iron ore conferences held in November. The first, called World Iron Ore 96, was held on the 14th and 15 of November in Orlando, FL. It was sponsored by Skillings Conferences, which with Skillings Mining Review is a subsidiary of D.N. Skillings, Inc. The meeting was attended by about 140 persons. Over the 2-day period, 23 papers were presented. After the opening session, there were sessions on

logistics and steelmaking raw materials. The second, called Iron Ore 96, was held on November 19th and 20th in Charlotte, NC. It was organized by Gorham/Intertech Consulting. The meeting was attended by about 200 people from 17 countries. Over the 2-day period 22 papers were presented. The panel subjects were as follows: I - The Iron Ore Pellet Crisis: Fact or Fiction?; II - Winning Strategies for Iron Ore Sourcing for DRI Production for use in Mini- and Integrated Mills; III - The Iron Ore Producers' Forum: Future Strategies and Critical Issues for Suppliers and Buyers; IV - The Coming Shake-Up in Iron Ore Supply, Demand and Pricing; and V - Critical Iron Ore Requirements for Emerging Alternative Iron Unit Processes.

TABLE 1
U.S. PRODUCTION AND SHIPMENTS OF IRON ORE, BY DISTRICTS 1/
(Exclusive of ore containing 5% or more manganese)

(Thousand metric tons)

Period	Lake Superior		Other U.S.		Total 2/	
	Monthly	Year to date	Monthly	Year to date	Monthly	Year to date
Production:						
1995:						
September	5,382	46,404	49	299	5,431	46,700
October	5,542	51,946	23	322	5,565	52,265
November	5,089	57,035	57	379	5,146	57,411
December	4,991	62,026	48	427	5,039	62,450
1996:						
January	4,232	4,232	35	35	4,267	4,267
February	4,217	8,449	25	60	4,242	8,509
March	4,801	13,250	23	83	4,824	13,333
April	4,668	17,918	22	105	4,690	18,023
May	5,479	23,397	20	125	5,500	23,522
June	5,128	28,525	22	147	5,150	28,672
July	5,771	34,296	22	169	5,793	34,465
August	5,752	40,048	119	288	5,871	40,336
September	5,590	45,638	25	313	5,615	45,951
Shipments:						
1995:						
September	5,963	43,480	30	315	5,993	43,796
October	5,754	49,234	37	352	5,791	49,587
November	5,632	54,866	44	396	5,676	55,263
December	5,596	60,462	39	435	5,635	60,898
1996:						
January	3,363	3,363	12	12	3,375	3,375
February	1,315	4,678	21	33	1,336	4,711
March	2,357	7,035	25	58	2,382	7,093
April	5,290	12,325	20	78	5,310	12,403
May	6,317	18,328	21	99	6,024	18,427
June	5,925	24,253	17	116	5,942	24,369
July	6,396	30,649	29	145	6,424	30,793
August	6,230	36,879	29	174	6,259	37,052
September	6,341	43,220	29	203	6,370	43,422

1/ Excludes byproduct ore.

2/ Data may not add to totals shown because of independent rounding.

TABLE 2
U.S. PRODUCTION, SHIPMENTS AND STOCKS OF IRON ORE IN SEPTEMBER 1/
(Exclusive of ore containing 5% or more manganese)

(Thousand metric tons)

District	Production		Shipments 2/		Stocks 3/	
	1996	1995	1996	1995	1996	1995
Lake Superior:						
Michigan	1,364	1,269	1,283	1,338	2,144	2,644
Minnesota	4,226	4,114	5,058	4,625	4,254	2,917 r/
Other U.S.	25	49	29	30	109	88
Total 4/	5,615	5,431	6,370	5,993	6,508	5,649 r/

r/ Revised.

1/ Excludes byproduct ore.

2/ Includes rail and vessel.

3/ Includes mines, plants and loading docks.

4/ Data may not add to totals shown because of independent rounding.

TABLE 3
CANADA: SHIPMENTS OF IRON ORE

(Thousand dry metric tons)

Period	Newfoundland	Quebec	Ontario	British Columbia	Total 1/
1995:					
September	2,150	1,331	52	6	3,539
October	1,985	1,435	50	7	3,476
November	1,823	1,314	55	7	3,199
December	1,442	1,473	83	6	3,004
Year total	19,969	14,121	1,020	83	35,193
1996:					
January	477	686	42	7	1,212
February	646	927	46	7	1,626
March	444	743	49	7	1,242
April	2,075	741	36	7	2,858
May	1,343	1,927	45	8	3,324
June	1,653	405	43	6	2,107
July	1,308	995	38	7	2,348
August	2,082	867	40	6	2,995
September	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA

NA Not available.

1/ Data may not add to totals shown because of independent rounding.

Source: Natural Resources Canada.

TABLE 4
CONSUMPTION AND STOCKS OF IRON ORE AND AGGLOMERATES AND
BLAST FURNACE PRODUCTION OF HOT METAL AT U.S. IRON AND STEEL PLANTS

(Thousand metric tons)

Consumption of ores and agglomerates				
Consumption by source	August		Year to date	
	1996	1995	1996	1995
United States ores	4,734	4,912	38,062	39,083
Canadian ores	641	582	5,019	5,230
Foreign ores	423	572	5,146	5,141
Total 1/	5,798	6,066	48,225	49,454
Consumption by process				
Blast furnaces	5,364	5,572	43,775	45,388
Steel furnaces	7	5	53	42
Agglomerating plants 2/	427	489	4,372	4,019
Miscellaneous 3/	--	--	23	6
Total 1/	5,798	6,066	48,225	49,454
Stocks of ores and agglomerates				
Storage point	August 30			
	1996	1995		
Furnace yards	14,368	14,913		
Receiving/transfer docks	2,032	2,508		
Total consumer 1/	16,400	17,421		
Blast furnace production of hot metal				
	August		Year to date	
	1996	1995	1996	1995
Hot metal and pig iron produced in blast furnaces	4,080	4,253	33,323	33,743
No. of blast furnaces operating on the last day of the month	37	41	XX	XX

XX Not applicable.

1/ Data may not add to totals shown because of independent rounding.

2/ Iron ore and iron ore concentrates consumed in agglomerating plants not located at the mine site.

3/ Sold to nonreporting companies or used for purposes not listed.

TABLE 5
U.S. EXPORTS OF IRON ORE AND AGGLOMERATES, BY COUNTRY
OF DESTINATION AND TYPE

(Thousand metric tons)

Country of destination and type	1996				
	1st Quarter	2nd Quarter	June	July	August
Canada	833	1,288	364	941	633
Mexico	5	2	(1/)	(1/)	(1/)
Other	1	5	2	1	1
Total 2/	840	1,295	366	942	634
Pellets	833	1,267	346	940	629
Other	7	28	20	3	5
Total 2/	840	1,295	366	942	634

1/ Less than 1/2 unit.

2/ Data may not add to totals shown because of independent rounding.

Source: Bureau of the Census.

TABLE 6
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF IRON ORE AND AGGLOMERATES,
BY COUNTRY AND TYPE
(Exclusive of ore containing 20% or more manganese)

Country of origin and type of product	August 1996		Year to date 1996			Year to date 1995 (thousand metric tons)
	Thousand metric tons	Value 1/ (thousand dollars)	Thousand metric tons	Value 1/ (thousand dollars)	Value 1/ (dollars per ton)	
Australia	--	--	379	2,568	6.78	446
Bahamas, The	--	--	186	4,897	26.33	57
Brazil	846	19,652	3,704	93,501	25.24	3,210
Canada	966	32,471	5,125	173,149	33.79	5,305
Chile	58	880	97	1,469	15.14	--
Finland	3	153	6	307	51.17	9
Indonesia	--	--	--	--	--	(2/)
Mauritania	--	--	209	3,743	17.91	242
Mexico	1	10	4	68	17.00	--
Norway	--	--	--	--	--	14
Peru	--	--	43	476	11.07	45
Spain	--	--	11	181	16.45	--
Sweden	48	2,047	48	2,047	42.65	47
Trinidad and Tobago	--	--	--	--	--	5
United Kingdom	--	--	--	--	--	2
Uruguay	--	--	24	591	24.63	--
Venezuela	143	5,407	1,398	51,401	36.77	1,579
Total 3/	2,064	60,620	11,233	334,397	29.77 4/	10,960
Concentrates	222	4,967	696	12,861	18.48	933
Coarse ores	132	5,141	643	24,197	37.63	1,207
Fine ores	524	8,532	2,792	46,428	16.63	2,516
Pellets	1,133	39,941	6,746	240,755	35.69	5,592
Briquettes	--	--	--	--	--	35
Other agglomerates	50	1,886	349	9,813	28.12	669
Roasted pyrites	3	153	6	342	57.00	9
Total 3/	2,064	60,620	11,233	334,397	29.77 4/	10,960

1/ Customs value. Excludes international freight, insurance, and other c.i.f. charges.

2/ Less than 1/2 unit.

3/ Data may not add to totals shown because of independent rounding.

4/ Weighted average calculated from unrounded data by dividing total value by total tonnage.

Source: Bureau of the Census.

TABLE 7
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF IRON ORE AND AGGLOMERATES IN AUGUST 1996
(Exclusive of ore containing 20% or more manganese)

(Thousand metric tons)

Country of origin	Type of product						Total 1/
	Concentrates	Coarse ores	Fine ores	Pellets	Briquettes and other agglomerates	Roasted pyrites	
Brazil	118	58	466	154	50	--	846
Canada	57	--	--	909	--	--	966
Chile	--	--	58	--	--	--	58
Finland	--	--	--	--	--	3	3
Mexico	--	--	--	--	1	--	1
Sweden	48	--	--	--	--	--	48
Venezuela	--	74	--	69	--	--	143
Total 1/	222	132	524	1,133	50	3	2,064

1/ Data may not add to totals shown because of independent rounding.

Source: Bureau of the Census.

TABLE 8
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF PELLETS, BY COUNTRY

Country of origin	August 1996		Year to date 1996			Year to date 1995
	Thousand metric tons	Value 1/ (thousand dollars)	Thousand metric tons	Value 1/ (thousand dollars)	Value 1/ (dollars per ton)	(thousand metric tons)
Brazil	154	5,872	1,199	44,860	37.41	837
Canada	909	31,454	4,703	163,369	34.74	4,112
Peru	--	--	--	--	--	36
Venezuela	69	2,615	844	32,527	38.54	607
Total 2/	1,133	39,941	6,746	240,755	35.69 3/	5,592

1/ Customs value. Excludes international freight, insurance, and other c.i.f. charges.

2/ Data may not add to totals shown because of independent rounding.

3/ Weighted average calculated from unrounded data by dividing total value by total tonnage.

Source: Bureau of the Census.

TABLE 9
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF IRON ORE AND
AGGLOMERATES, BY CUSTOMS DISTRICT
(Exclusive of ore containing 20% or more manganese)

(Thousand metric tons)

Customs district	August	Year to date	
	1996	1996	1995
Baltimore, MD (13)	540	2,968	2,941
Buffalo, NY (09)	--	(1/)	--
Charleston, SC (16)	96	383	338
Chicago, IL (39)	302	1,429	1,576
Cleveland, OH (41)	178	398	914
Detroit, MI (38)	186	1,107	216
Duluth, MN (36)	--	51	--
Houston - Galveston, TX (53)	28	49	43
Los Angeles, CA (27)	--	(1/)	(1/)
Mobile, AL (19)	182	2,183	2,276
New Orleans, LA (20)	183	1,095	929
Nogales, AZ (26)	1	4	--
Ogdensburg, NY (07)	--	(1/)	(1/)
Philadelphia, PA (11)	370	1,556	1,711
Portland, ME (01)	--	(1/)	--
San Diego, CA (25)	--	--	9
San Juan, PR (49)	--	11	5
Total 2/	2,064	11,233	10,960

1/ Less than 1/2 unit.

2/ Data may not add to totals shown because of independent rounding.

Source: Bureau of the Census.

TABLE 10
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF PELLETS, BY CUSTOMS DISTRICT

(Thousand metric tons)

Customs district	August	Year to date	
	1996	1996	1995
Baltimore, MD (13)	199	1,246	889
Charleston, SC (16)	46	192	213
Chicago, IL (39)	155	835	704
Cleveland, OH (41)	150	346	861
Detroit, MI (38)	185	1,084	211
Duluth, MN (36)	--	51	--
Houston - Galveston, TX (53)	28	41	43
Mobile, AL (19)	182	1,678	1,296
New Orleans, LA (20)	--	287	39
Philadelphia, PA (11)	188	987	1,337
Total 1/	1,133	6,746	5,592

1/ Data may not add to totals shown because of independent rounding.

Source: Bureau of the Census.